

12. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, further comprising a drive shaft coupled to said low-pressure turbine, said gearbox coupled between said drive shaft and said first rotor section such that said first rotor section rotates at a rotational speed that is different than the rotational speed of said low-pressure turbine.

13. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, further comprising a drive shaft coupled to said low-pressure turbine, said gearbox coupled between said drive shaft and said second rotor section such that said second rotor section rotates at a rotational speed that is different than the rotational speed of said low-pressure turbine.

14. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, further comprising:

- a drive shaft coupled to said low-pressure turbine; and
- a fan assembly coupled to said drive shaft such that said fan assembly rotates at a rotational speed that is the same as the rotational speed of said low-pressure turbine.

15. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, further comprising:

- a drive shaft coupled between said gearbox and said low-pressure turbine; and
- a fan assembly coupled to said gearbox such that said fan assembly rotates at a rotational speed that is different than the rotational speed of said low-pressure turbine.

16. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, further comprising a thrust bearing assembly coupled

between said low-pressure turbine and a fan assembly to facilitate absorbing the thrust loads generated by said low-pressure turbine and said fan assembly and transmitting the residual thrust loads to ground.

17. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, wherein said gearbox comprises a planetary gearbox having a substantially toroidal cross-sectional profile, said gearbox substantially circumscribing said drive shaft.

18. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, wherein said first rotor section is coupled to said gearbox such that said first rotor section rotates in a direction that is opposite to a rotational direction of a fan assembly.

19. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, wherein said second rotor section is coupled to said gearbox such that said second rotor section rotates in a direction that is opposite to a rotational direction of a fan assembly.

20. A turbofan engine assembly in accordance with claim **11**, wherein said gearbox comprises a plurality of gears, each of said gears comprising a first gear portion having first diameter and a second gear portion having a second different diameter, said first rotor section coupled to said first gear portion, and said second rotor section coupled to said second gear portion such that said first rotor section rotates at a first rotational speed and said second rotor section rotates at a rotational speed that is less than the first rotational speed.

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